

Patent Application Serial No. 10/568,416

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to recite that *at least one of the holding members is arranged such that the portion inserted between the first substrate and the second substrate is in contact with the lead-out terminal of the first [second] substrate*. This feature is supported in Fig. 1, which shows four holding members of which two (labeled 80) have an inserted portion (upper portion in the drawing) in contact with the lead-out terminals 114 of the upper substrate 110, and of which the adjoining two (labeled 81) have an inserted portion in contact with the lead-out terminals 134 of the lower substrate 130.

The Abstract explains that “That portion of the holding member that is inserted between the transparent first substrate (110) and the second substrate (130) is disposed so as to be in contact with each lead-out terminal (114, 134)” and the Specification states, “In the portions where the clips 80, 80 are inserted between the movable substrate 110 and the fixed substrate 130, the top surfaces of the clips 80, 80 are in contact with the lead-out terminals 114, 114 of the movable substrate 110. In the portions where the clips 81, 81 are inserted between the movable substrate 110 and the fixed substrate 130, the bottom surfaces of the clips 81, 81 are in contact with the lead-out terminals 134, 134 of the fixed substrate 130.”

In response to the outstanding Action:

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All claims 1-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yukio, JP 2002-259054, in view of Higuchi et al., US 6,412,263. This rejection is respectfully traversed on the basis that neither of the references discloses the subject matter of amended claim 1 and the combination is not obvious.

(1) Yukio/AAPA/Fig. 7 shows a touch-sensitive “transparent touch panel” without any holding members.

(2) Higuchi shows (e.g., Figs. 6 and 10) a springy conductive contact 32, applied against the holding member, that has a portion inserted between two substrates 21, 22; this conductor makes contact with first and second electrode patterns 25, 26 on the two upper surfaces of the respective substrates 21 and 22. This achieves Higuchi’s object of providing an improved “board-to-board connector” (col. 1, line 50 to col. 2, line 3). The reference does not teach any communication between a board and the outside environment, as in Yukio.

Higuchi’s connection is contrary to Yukio, because there is no reason to connect the electrodes of two touch panels to each other; the touch screen information must be sent outside (as shown in Fig. 7/Yukio) for the device to work—if the signals merely shuttle between the internal parts of the touch panel then the information of the user’s touch is lost. Therefore, modifying Yukio according to Higuchi would destroy the function of Yukio.

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Interview Summary: Claim amendments were discussed relative to the new reference. The Examiner is thanked for the interview.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571-273-8300) on October 13, 2011:

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